



## Saddle Up... Tonight We Ride

Graybeards may recall that, back in the olden days, officers were sometimes gathered together and asked (usually by someone of greater rank who also happened to be in everyone's rating chain), "Who is a member of (insert organization here)?" Non-members were then offered the opportunity to sign up with the battalion S1, who lurked in the back of the room, proper forms at the ready. I'm sure the same sort of arm-twisting went on for the noncommissioned officers and soldiers, but we don't do that anymore (or shouldn't). The United States Armor Association must rely on its own devices to gain your support.

Why join the association and subscribe to *ARMOR Magazine*? Can't one simply read the free unit copy of *ARMOR Magazine* or the web page? In regard to the free or unit copy, the race is to the swiftest, and you won't see the most current issue of *ARMOR Magazine* on the web page — that makes little sense. We are slowly but steadily adding back issues to our web page but will never post the current issues; few publications do.

Join and support the association today because, quite simply, it's the right thing to do. *ARMOR* is our professional journal. Professionals publish and communicate through journals to improve themselves and the profession. It was for this reason that in November of 1885 a group of cavalry officers met at Fort Leavenworth to establish what would become the Armor Association. In March of 1888 they published the *Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association* (in 1946, it would become the *Armored Cavalry Journal* and *ARMOR* in 1950). I'm glancing over quite a bit of history in this short summation (for a complete history of the magazine and association see the November-December 1973 issue of *ARMOR*), to illustrate that the association and magazine have been tied together for over 111 years.

Currently, over 4,500 members comprise the association sharing the same stated goal: "to disseminate knowledge of the military art and sciences, with special attention to mobility in ground warfare; to promote the professional improvement of its members; and to preserve and foster the spirit, the traditions, and the

solidarity of Armor in the Army of the United States." The association is a non-profit organization that reprints *ARMOR Magazine* for its members and administers an aggressive awards program that recognizes the very best cavalymen and tankers and those who support them.

I've heard the excuses for not joining, most arguing that frequent moves hinder delivery of the magazine. Frankly, that dog won't hunt! The association has a web page, [www.usarmor-assn.org](http://www.usarmor-assn.org), so if contacting the association via the phone, fax, or mail to change an address is too difficult, one must simply log on to the web to accomplish this daunting task.

With my sermon complete, I'd like to point out that the business of scouting and cavalry are on the minds of the mounted force — a fact reflected in this issue of *ARMOR*, which devotes a great deal of space to the various debates ranging in our community. Major Todd Tolson begins by describing the Future Scout/Cavalry System design process. Tolson details many of the factors involved including: the joint U.S./U.K program, the wheel versus track debate, and capability issues. You'll also see topics that LTC Mark Reardon wants addressed in upcoming editions of *FM 17-95*, and Mr. Stanley Crist's argument for an airmobile, amphibious scout vehicle. CPT Bill Williams makes a pitch for a battalion scout troop, and you'll see 1LT Thomas Brennan's article outlining 4th ID's scout-COLT integration. We conclude scout/cavalry theme with a short piece describing the agreement between the Dutch and Germans to build the "Fennek" Light Reconnaissance Vehicle.

With that said, the most telling scout prose may well be found in a letter written by one of those guys we expect to dismount from a scout vehicle to answer our burning questions and protect the force. It seems most of the published debates center on protection versus weight/aircraft deployable or stealth versus fightability, etc., but until the good sergeant wrote, few had voiced the concern of those who must climb in and out of the platform — well said SGT Thacker (see Page 18). — D2

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